

Listing of Claims:

1 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method of setting up two-way optical communication between a central unit and a remote unit suitable for operating in a given communication mode selected from a plurality of communication modes, comprising:

[[•]] defining a plurality of frame patterns in the central unit, with each frame pattern being appropriate to one of said communication modes; and

[[•]] sending said plurality of frame patterns sequentially from the central unit to the remote unit until a coherent response is obtained at the central unit from said remote unit, and the communication mode of the remote unit being the mode

selecting as the given communication mode to be used by the central unit for two-way optical communication with the remote unit that which corresponds to the frame pattern which gave rise to said coherent response from the remote unit.

2 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of communication modes comprises simultaneous communication modes and alternating communication modes.

3 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein the simultaneous communication modes comprise simplex, full duplex, and duplex modes.

4 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein the alternating communication modes comprise half-duplex and part-duplex modes.

5 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein the frame pattern appropriate to simultaneous communication modes is constituted by a complete frame, without any interruption of transmission.

6 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein the frame pattern appropriate to alternating communication modes is constituted by a down frame including an interruption in transmission in order to enable the remote unit to send between the interruption of transmission from the central unit and the end of the frame.

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7 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the remote unit is a reflection modulator and the frame consists, after transmission has been interrupted, in sending a constant level to be modulated and reflected by said remote unit.

8 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the interruption in transmission is defined by an end-of-frame cell for the down-frame.

9 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein the position of the end cell of the down-frame is given by a frame header cell.

10 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein the end cell of the down-frame is recognized by the remote unit.

11 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 5, wherein a frame header cell includes a special field specifying the frame pattern used.

12 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the remote units are distinguished by wavelength, and the step of sending the plurality of frame patterns sequentially is performed in succession at each remote unit wavelength until ~~a~~ said coherent response is obtained.

13 [[/]]. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the remote units are distinguished by wavelength, and the step of sending the plurality of frame patterns sequentially is performed in succession at each remote unit wavelength for each frame pattern until said coherent response is obtained.
